



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 6, 2006

2006-007

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### **WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN WEST**

**SAN SALVADOR**— Today, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), along with the Ministry of Agriculture's Program for Reconstruction and Rural Modernization (PREMODER) and the Mayor's Office of San Lorenzo, Ahuachapan, inaugurated an irrigation canal in San Lorenzo, western El Salvador.

The rehabilitation project will allow farmers to access water for their crops, serving over 100 hectares. The total cost of this project is \$163,097 of which USAID contributed \$91,421 through its Small Infrastructure Activity and Agricultural Diversification Program. PREMODER provided \$58,611, while the community supplied \$13,065 in low skilled labor and additional materials.

"We hope this project contributes to the reactivation of the local economy through the cultivation of vegetables such as cucumber, cabbage, *loroco*, and plantain, and job generation once the activities start in this area. We're satisfied knowing that the irrigation canal rehabilitation will benefit the whole municipality of San Lorenzo," said Mark Silverman, USAID director.

Until recently, damage to the irrigation canal prevented its full use, which caused decreased agricultural production in San Lorenzo. The 4.5-kilometer long canal now provides water to 100 fertile hectares.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Agriculture Mario Salaverria, the USAID Director Mark Silverman, the Mayor of San Lorenzo Walter Ortiz and the President of the San Lorenzo Irrigation Association Gilberto Rodriguez, among other guests.

Since 1998, USAID has financed the Small Infrastructure Activity, a rapid response to the needs of local communities. Through this activity, USAID has financed over 149 projects deemed priorities by community members, such as road improvements, bridge construction and irrigation system rehabilitation.

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